

Appl. No. 10/677,015
Amdt. dated January 17, 2008
Reply to Office action of October 19, 2007

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Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (previously presented) A process for producing soybean oil from soybeans comprising:
 - a) extracting up to about 85% of the oil from the soybeans to produce first extracted soybean oil and oil-containing meal, said oil being extracted from said soybeans by mechanical extraction; and
 - b) extracting substantially all of the oil in said oil-containing meal by solvent extraction to produce second extracted soybean oil and substantially oil-free meal.
2. (canceled)
3. (canceled)
4. (original) The process of claim 1, wherein from about 60% to about 75% of the oil is extracted from said soybeans.
5. (canceled)
6. (original) The process of claim 1, further including the step of physically refining said first extracted soybean oil.
7. (original) The process of claim 1, wherein oil is extracted from said soybeans by heating said soybeans to at least 300°F, crushing said soybeans, and mechanically pressing said

soybeans.

8. (canceled)
9. (canceled)
10. (currently amended) The process of claim 1, further including the step of producing biodiesel fuel from said second extracted soybean oil by transesterification.
11. (original) A process for producing soybean oil from soybeans comprising:
 - a) mechanically extracting up to about 85% of the oil from the soybeans to produce first extracted soybean oil and oil-containing meal;
 - b) physically refining said first extracted soybean oil; and
 - c) extracting substantially all of the oil in said oil-containing meal by solvent extraction to produce second extracted soybean oil and substantially oil-free meal.
12. (currently amended) The process of claim 11, wherein oil is extracted from said soybeans by heating said soybeans of a temperature of at least 300°F from about 300°F to about 370°F in less than 60 seconds, ~~and mechanically pressing said soybeans.~~
13. (original) The process of claim 11, wherein oil is extracted from said soybean meal with hexane.
14. (currently amended) The process of claim 11, wherein from about 60 to about 75% of the oil in said soybeans is extracted ~~by mechanical extraction~~.
15. (original) The process of claim 11, wherein said second extracted soybean oil is transesterified.
16. (previously presented) A process for producing soybean oil from soybeans comprising:

a) extracting up to about 85% of the oil from the soybeans by solvent extraction to produce first extracted soybean oil and oil-containing meal; and

b) caustic refining said first extracted soybean oil.

17. (original) The process of claim 16, further including extracting substantially all of the oil in said oil-containing meal by solvent extraction to produce second extracted soybean oil and substantially oil-free meal.

18. (canceled)

19. (original) The process of claim 16, wherein oil is extracted from said soybeans by flaking said soybeans and contacting the soybean flakes with a solvent.

20. (original) The process of claim 16, wherein oil is extracted from said soybean meal with hexane.

21. (currently amended) The process of claim 16, wherein said oil extracted by contacting said soybeans with hexane in a ratio of hexane to available soybean oil of less than 1:1.

22. (currently amended) The process of claim 16, wherein from about 60 to about 85% of the oil in said soybeans is extracted ~~by solvent extraction~~.

23. (currently amended) The process of claim 17, wherein said second extracted soybean oil is transesterified to produce biodiesel.

24. (currently amended) A process for producing soybean oil from soybeans comprising:

a) extracting up to about 85% of the oil from the soybeans by solvent extraction to produce first extracted soybean oil and oil-containing meal;

b) caustic refining said first extracted soybean oil; and
c) extracting substantially all of the oil in said oil-containing meal by solvent extraction to produce second extracted soybean oil and substantially oil-free meal.

25. (previously presented) A process for producing soybean oil from soybeans comprising:

a) extracting up to about 85% of the oil from the soybeans to produce first extracted soybean oil and oil-containing meal;

b) physically refining said first extracted soybean oil; and

c) extracting substantially all of the oil in said oil-containing meal by solvent extraction to produce second extracted soybean oil and substantially oil-free meal.

26. (currently amended) A process for producing soybean oil from soybeans comprising:

a) extracting up to about 85% of the oil from the soybeans to produce first extracted soybean oil and oil-containing meal, wherein oil is extracted from said soybeans by heating said soybeans to ~~at least 300°F~~ from about 300°F to about 370°F in less than 60 seconds, crushing said soybeans, and mechanically pressing said soybeans; and

b) extracting substantially all of the oil in said oil-containing meal by solvent extraction to produce second extracted soybean oil and substantially oil-free meal.

27. (currently amended) A process for producing soybean oil from soybeans comprising:

a) extracting up to about 85% of the oil from the soybeans to produce first extracted soybean oil and oil-containing meal;

b) extracting substantially all of the oil in said oil-containing meal by solvent extraction to produce second extracted soybean oil and substantially oil-free meal; and

c) producing biodiesel fuel from said second extracted soybean oil by transesterification.

28. (currently amended) A process for producing soybean oil from soybeans comprising:

a) extracting up to about 85% of the oil from the soybeans by solvent extraction to produce first extracted soybean oil and oil-containing meal by contacting said soybeans with hexane in a ratio of hexane to available soybean oil of less than 1:1; and

b) refining said first extracted soybean oil.

29. (previously presented) A process for producing soybean oil from soybeans comprising:

a) extracting up to about 85% of the oil from the soybeans by solvent extraction to produce first extracted soybean oil and oil-containing meal;

b) refining said first extracted soybean oil; and

c) extracting substantially all of the oil in said oil-containing meal by solvent extraction to produce second extracted soybean oil and substantially oil-free meal and transesterifying said second extracted soybean oil.

30. (previously presented) A process for producing soybean oil from soybeans comprising:

a) extracting up to about 85% of the oil from the soybeans by mechanical extraction to produce first extracted soybean oil and oil-containing meal; and

b) caustic refining said first extracted soybean oil.